



ATN in PROFILE

Volume 4, Edition 1 – January 2008

Welcome ...

to the 10th Annual ATN Conference 2008

Welcome to the 2008 ATN Conference. Our annual conference allows us to come together to discuss and agree upon directions for the year.

It provides the chance for all of us to explore and develop new ideas and form stronger relationships as we bring together senior staff from our member universities.

Combining work and social interaction enhances the ATN's position as a national community as we look to showcase the results our successful collaboration is delivering.

This year, we welcome to the conference delegates from Chinese affiliated ISTA Network and the South African Technology Network – two of our important and significant international alliances, as well as the Hon Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

This year's conference theme, "A Decade of Building Partnerships – Constructing



■ Professor Margaret Gardner, AO

Our Future", has seen the ATN take enormous steps since its inception, forging pathways of change that have enabled us as a group to become a formidable force and help shape this country's higher education sector.

As a voice of significance, widely known for our reasoning and thinking, we believe Australia has the capacity to develop one of the top 10 university systems in the world. We can achieve that goal via a university system that educates our

populace and prepares them for excellence in their chosen field and responsive to the needs of our society. Close engagement and partnerships with government, industry and the community, should combine a system that provides solutions at all levels and makes Australia a world benchmark.

2007 heralded a year of political change for Australia and was a year of great success for the ATN. The ATN will continue to work with the newly elected Federal Labour Government on the issues we see as vital to Australia's global competitiveness and position as a provider of higher education services and national growth. These include:

- Increased government targeted funding to meet identified skills shortages and skills development in engineering, maths, science, innovation, creative industries, nursing and allied health and information technology.

■ Continued Page 2

10th Annual ATN Conference 2008

"A Decade of Building Partnerships – Constructing Our Future"

29 - 31 January 2008

Hosted by: Curtin University of Technology, Perth

Program and Speakers Page 2

inside

Research assessment expert to attend **2**

WEXDEV workshop to build on success **3**

Environmental sustainability declaration **3**

member universities

University of South Australia

Curtin University of Technology

RMIT University

University of Technology, Sydney

Queensland University of Technology

www.atn.edu.au



10th Annual ATN Conference 2008

PROGRAM

Tuesday, 29 January
Cocktail Function

Wednesday, 30 January
Registration on arrival
Conference Opening
Conference Plenary Sessions
Conference Dinner

Thursday, 31 January
Keynote Speakers
Conference Plenary Sessions
Conference Close
Working Group meetings

SPEAKERS

Mr Glenn Milne
Senior Correspondent, News Limited
"Post election climate: implications for the sector"

Dr Rosa Scoble
RAE Office Director, Brunel University, UK
"Research Assessment: Constructing the Research of the Future"

Dr Thomas Barlow
Technology and Research Strategy Consultant
"The State of Research in Australian Universities: The Barlow Report"

Ms Joanna Motion
Vice President for International Operations Council for the Advancement and Support of Education
"Not Only But Also: Private plus Public Investment - Global Philanthropy Comparisons"

Mr Phil Clark AM
Chair, HEEF Advisory Board
"HEEF Governance and Future Directions"

Mr Peter Taylor
Chief Executive Officer, Engineers Australia
"Educating Engineers – a shared responsibility"

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Vice Chancellors and Senior Staff from:

International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA), China

South African Technology Network (SATN)

Welcome from the Chair

■ From Page 1

■ Setting a program of increases in Commonwealth contribution in areas like science, engineering and health.

■ Increasing the number of postgraduate scholarships by 500 over two years and increase the post graduate stipend from \$19,616 to a minimum of \$25,000 pa; and

■ A HECS-debt repurchase or remission scheme to name a few.

The ATN has strengthened its position through ensuring a strong capacity for collaboration, enabling the development and delivery of research and educational projects and programs

across Australia. Our first steps towards this can be seen in our contribution to the enhancement of engineering education, development of research that advances metabolic fitness, and research that provides for more sustainable energy use for the future. I invite you all to work and interact with your colleagues from other universities during the conference- enduring institutional alliances are built on personal relationships.



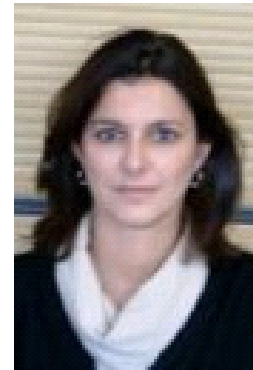
– ATN Chair Professor Margaret Gardner, AO

Conference to hear from research assessment expert

The 2008 conference will once again benefit from an international perspective, with two speakers from the UK joining the event to give participants the benefit of their experience around issues which Australian universities have only recently begun to come to grips with.

With some form of national research assessment on the horizon (cancellation of the RQF notwithstanding) delegates will hear from keynote speaker Dr Rosa Scoble about the lessons that have been learned in the UK as a result of their Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Dr Scoble has been dealing with the RAE since she supported Brunel University's submission in 2001 as a research assistant, subsequently focusing her PhD on tracking behavioural changes in the sector that resulted from the introduction of the RAE. Today she is Director of the RAE Office at Brunel University (UK) and has been responsible for the planning and management of the processes for the delivery of the University's RAE 2008



■ **Keynote speaker Dr Rosa Scoble will give conference participants the benefit of her experiences in the UK.**

submission. She also has significant expertise in performance indicators, quality assessment and data modelling and has compiled the University League tables for the Guardian newspaper for the last 4 years. It is anticipated that Dr Scoble's insights will assist the ATN in further developing a response to research assessment issues, with Vice Chancellors scheduled to meet with the new Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kin Carr, following the ATN Conference.



■ The WEXDEV program has successfully promoted the advancement of women into the upper echelons of universities.

WEXDEV workshop to build on success

Eleven years ago, ATN Vice Chancellors took the first steps to developing Australia's first (and still the only) multi-university initiative designed to promote the advancement of women into the upper echelons of university academia and administration.

Over the years, WEXDEV has grown to become one of the most successful programs of its type, with a well-established national network, regular national conferences and forums, a finalist in the EOWA Awards and a widely-recognised reputation as a benchmark program.

Taking place in association with the 2008 ATN Conference, the 6th WEXDEV Research Leadership Capability Building Workshop will build on those achievements, providing an opportunity for women across ATN universities to come together for a workshop designed to increase

their capacity to be successful in an academic research career.

This year, workshop participants will benefit from the experience of not only three of the ATN's women Pro/Deputy Vice-Chancellors, but also that of keynote speaker for the 2008 ATN Conference, Dr Rosa Scoble (*see Page 2*).

Along with Dr Scoble's insights into preparing for research assessment, Professor Caroline McMillen, UniSA DVC (Research), Professor Hilary Winchester, UniSA PVC (Organisational Strategy & Change) and Professor Joyce Kirk, RMIT PVC (Students) will address workshop participants to give their perspectives on the skills needed to succeed as a research leader.

This continuing high level of support for WEXDEV has allowed it to grow to the benchmark program it is today, and we look forward to seeing what it will have grown into after its next decade.

Proactive stance on environmental sustainability

As leaders of their communities and responsible global citizens, ATN universities strive to take the lead in implementing practices that serve the long-term interests of Australia and its populace. Accordingly, Vice Chancellors plan to announce an "ATN Sustainability Declaration" during the 2008 ATN Conference. This declaration will provide a cohort of six broad principles intended to drive policy across each of its members, moving towards a network that represents a leader in

Australian sustainability practice.

But principles are only the first step, and while the declaration will begin the process of shaping ATN environmental policy, concrete goals must be set to give us something to strive towards. Accordingly, this declaration will commence the process of a collaborative environmental review and target-setting initiative by the ATN.

Working together to share best practice, each ATN university will conduct a comprehensive

Policy direction

The newly appointed Chair of the Federal Government's Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) Advisory Board, Mr Phil Clark, AM, will lead a panel discussion on higher education policy direction as part of the ATN Conference. The HEEF has been welcomed by the ATN as a fund which has the ability to build capacity across our university system which in turn contributes to the development and growth of a world class university system in both teaching and research. Indeed that nexus is critical. Generating a world class system will create an environment which is then attractive for others to invest in.

That said, it is unclear (and untested) as to how attractive HEEF might be in attracting gifts from the private sector particularly in light of other giving avenues for major gift funds. Mr Clark's presentation – HEEF Governance and Future Directions may shed some light on the current thinking around this issue.

Philanthropy to be examined

Australians give \$11 billion per annum and all studies indicate that our generosity is on the rise. However according to Dr Myles McGregor-Lowndes, a professor in the Faculty of Business at the Queensland University of Technology and Director of The Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies (CPNS), there is growing evidence that the education charities and particularly Australian universities are not sharing in this philanthropic largesse to date.

How to address this issue and an examination of the role of university councils and senates in generating philanthropy will form the basis of his presentation to the ATN Conference. Dr McGregor Lowndes was a member of the BHERT task force on Philanthropy resulting in the report *Increasing Private Support for Australian Universities* and a member of the team that researched the *Giving Australia Report for the Australian Government*.

audit of their emissions and energy footprint in the first half of 2008. Detailed project plans designed to address any issues identified will then be developed, allowing, for the first time, the cultivation of joint strategies across the network.

The ultimate goal of this initiative will be the announcement of realistic, achievable and cost-effective energy efficiency targets that will apply across the ATN, to be announced at the 2009 ATN Conference.

Advancing education

Differences in traditions of giving in different countries, barriers to change and mechanisms for overcoming those barriers, especially for tertiary institutions will be the focus of UK-based Joanna Motion's presentation. Joanna (pictured) has served as the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's (CASE) first Vice President for International Operations since 2003, having been appointed as the Executive Director of CASE Europe in 2000. Her remit includes CASE's activities around the world, with the exception of the USA. She oversees the work of the CASE Europe office in London and the CASE Asia-Pacific office in Singapore. Under her leadership, CASE Europe has become the fastest-growing membership area of CASE, and she has been instrumental in developing successful CASE programmes in Africa, Asia, Australia, and other parts of the world. She currently serves on the European Commission's Expert Group on Philanthropy for Research in Universities.



MOU on engineering

In a landmark project the ATN will sign an MOU with up to 15 schools across Australia aimed at provide secondary students with the opportunity to experience "the world of engineering" and to learn about the role of science and technology within engineering. The initiative is part of the Federally funded ATN Engineering Tomorrow's Engineers project. Under the agreement, ATN universities and the participating schools will collaborate to identify opportunities within the teaching program of the School to incorporate the various curriculum elements described in the project aims as well as identify opportunities for collaborating with a range of other partners including 'Engineers Australia' and industry. Engineers Australia's national President, Air Vice Marshal Julie Hammer (pictured above) will be at the ATN Conference to witness the signing of the agreement with the three participating West Australian schools. The ATN will also sign an MOU with the peak industry body.



member universities

University of South Australia
Curtin University of Technology
RMIT University
University of Technology, Sydney
Queensland University of Technology

www.atn.edu.au

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

FINDING SOLUTIONS



THE Australian Technology Network brings together five of the most innovative and enterprising universities in the nation.

We are committed to forging partnerships with industry and government to deliver practical results through focused research.

We educate graduates who are ready to enter their chosen profession, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and eager to claim a stake in building sustainable societies of the future.

ATN universities teach around 180,000 students, or almost 20 % of Australia's student population. With 1 in 4 international students choosing to study at an ATN university, we are also the largest provider of international education, both with our onshore and offshore students.

The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, and contribute to its social and economic wealth, while championing the principles of access and equity that have ensured its members are the universities of first choice for more students.

■ For more information about the ATN, our organisation and activities, please visit our web site at www.atn.edu.au

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